

King County Democrats 2008 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Mariane Chi Spearman
Position sought	King County Superior Court, Position 53
Residence LD	43 rd District
Are you the incumbent?	No. I am running for an open seat, newly created this year.
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	Spearman for Superior Court
Web page	www.spearmanforsuperiorcourt.com
Campaign Email address	spearmanforsuperiorcourt@comcast.net
Manager	I do not have a campaign manager
Campaign mailing address	1463 E. Republican Street #B-34 Seattle, WA 98112
Campaign phone number	(206) 714-1094
Campaign FAX	I do not have a fax machine.

Candidate Background: Community service, education, employment and other relevant experience.
Which undergraduate and law schools have you attended? Include Graduation date, degrees.
Rutgers University, B.A. 1981
University of Washington Law School, J.D. 1984

Hours and types of pro bono work performed.
My first job out of law school was as a public defender representing individuals who could not afford to hire their own attorneys. Although this was not pro bono work, my salary was only \$16,000 a year. I served as a volunteer attorney providing free legal advice at a Korean pro bono legal clinic. After I started my own law practice, I was involved in the KCBA family law mentee program where I represented indigent clients involved in contested dissolution and parenting actions. After I was a judge and could no longer provide legal advice, I worked as a coordinator for a pro bono legal clinic in the International District which provided free legal advice to low income citizens.

Have you ever been a prosecutor for any government entity? If yes, where and how long?
No

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Have you ever defended a person accused of a crime? If yes, where and how many cases?
Yes. I worked as a public defender in Seattle from 1985 - 1992.

Have you ever served as an arbitrator or Mediator? If yes, where and how many times?
No.

How many times have you participated as a judge or attorney in:	
Municipal Court	I was Kirkland Municipal Court judge 1995-2000
District Court	I have been a district court judge since 2000
Superior Court jury trials	75
Arguments in Court of Appeals	0
Arguments in State Supreme Court	0
Federal District Court trials	0

What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Municipal League	Not yet interviewed
King County Bar Association	Exceptionally Well Qualified
Washington Women Lawyers	Not yet interviewed
Loren Miller Bar Association	Exceptionally Well Qualified
QLAW: the GLBT Bar Association	Exceptionally Well Qualified
Latina/Latino Bar Association	Exceptionally Well Qualified
Joint Asian Judicial Evaluation Committee	Exceptionally Well Qualified

Which organizations and individuals have endorsed you in this race?
 Womens Political Caucus
 33rd District Democrats
 Dick Kelley, *former chair, 43rd District Democrats*
 Debbie Eddy, *State Rep, 48th District*
 Larry Gossett, *King County Council*
 Lloyd Hara, *Port of Seattle Commissioner*
 Bruce Harrell, *Seattle City Council*
 Russell Joe, *former Issaquah City Council*
 Michael Park, *Mayor of Federal Way*

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Joshua Schaer, *Issaquah City Council*
Ron Sims, *King County Executive*
Rodney Tom, *State Senator, 48th District*
Velma Veloria, *former State Rep, 11th District*
Susan Agid, *Court of Appeals, Div I*
Rick Bathum, *King County District Court*
Charles Burdell, *King County Superior Court, ret.*
Monica Benton, *King County Superior Court*
Bonnie Canada-Thurston, *King County Superior Court*
Greg Canova, *King County Superior Court*
Terry Carroll, *King County Superior Court, ret.*
James Cayce, *King County Superior Court*
Arthur Chapman, *King County District Court*
Mark Chow, *King County District Court*
Susan Craighead, *King County Superior Court*
Theresa Doyle, *King County Superior Court*
George Finkle, *King County Superior Court, ret.*
Mary Fairhurst, *Washington State Supreme Court*
Deborah Fleck, *King County Superior Court*
Donald Haley, *King County Superior Court, ret.*
Mike Heavey, *King County Superior Court*
Bruce Heller, *King County Superior Court*
Don Horowitz, *King County Superior Court, ret.*
Faith Ireland, *Washington State Supreme Court, ret.*
Charles V. Johnson, *King County Superior Court, ret.*
Paris Kallas, *King County Superior Court*
Linda Lau, *Court of Appeals, Div I*
Frank La Salata, *King County District Court*
Dean Lum, *King County Superior Court*
Douglas McBroom, *King County Superior Court*
Harry McCarthy, *King County Superior Court*
LeRoy McCullough, *King County Superior Court*
Bob McSeveney, *Kent Municipal Court*
Susan Owens, *Washington State Supreme Court*
Kim Prochnau, *King County Superior Court*
Jeffrey Ramsdell, *King County Superior Court*
Steve Scott, *King County Superior Court, ret.*
Wesley Saint Clair, *King County Superior Court*
Cathy Shaffer, *King County Superior Court*
Julie Spector, *King County Superior Court*
David Steiner, *King County District Court*
JoAnne Tompkins, *Court of Appeals, Div I, ret.*
Debra Stephens, *Washington State Supreme Court*
Michael Trickey, *King County Superior Court*
Jay White, *King County Superior Court*

John Chung

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Gregg Hirakawa
Earle Murray
Nancy Myhre
Yvonne Ward
Ted Barr
Jon Bridge
Ted Buck
Sam Chung
Steve Fury
Benjamin Lee
Jeffery Robinson
Kevin Tarvin
Lincoln Potter
Melissa Waldie

Which judicial candidates have you endorsed in the past five years?

Andrea Darvas, Theresa Doyle, Susan Amini, Mary Fairhurst. Debra Stephens

Have there ever been any successful claims made against you or your malpractice carrier? If "yes" please attach explanation.

No.

List any complaints you have received through any Bar Association, Judicial Conduct Committee or Board, or private insurance carrier. (Attach on a separate sheet of paper.)

None.

What is your strongest area of legal expertise?

My strongest area of expertise is in the area of criminal law. I worked for 7 years as a public defender and for the past 13 years as a judge in municipal and district courts where the majority of cases are criminal.

What recommendations do you have for improving court system funding and administration?

It is always difficult to balance the court's obligation to provide effective service to the public while trying to reduce costs due to diminishing funding. King County District court

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has consistently found that the use of technology has greatly increased our ability to meet the needs of the public more effectively and efficiently. Over the past few years, district court has converted from paper files to electronic court records, we have a web based program to schedule foreign language interpreters and we have upgraded our telephone technology. King County District Court receives 500,000 calls into its call center annually. By upgrading our phone technology, we have been able to dramatically increase the number of calls handled and decrease the hold time.

What actions have you taken in the last five years on issues regarding access to the judicial system?

As a judge in Seattle, a large metropolitan area, I see many individuals come to court for whom English is not their first language. It the judge's obligation to ensure that every individual who appears in court is able to understand and participate fully in the legal process. We can do this by providing competent foreign language interpreters and court documents that have been translated into other languages.

What recommendations do you have for increasing access to the judicial system (Civil and Criminal)?

All individuals who are charged with crimes have the right to representation by a lawyer. Those who cannot afford to hire counsel are appointed a public defender. Unfortunately civil litigants are not entitled to representation at public expense and those unable to afford to hire attorneys are forced to navigate the court system on their own. I fully support the family court facilitator programs at King County Superior Court. Under this program, trained court staff assist litigants with filling out the appropriate forms, explain court rules and procedures and make referrals to community resources.

If a sitting Judge, what committees have you been appointed to and what are the significant accomplishments of those committees or yourself? If not, which committee assignments would you seek?

King County District Court, Rules Committee (1999–2000); ECR Committee (2004); Personnel Committee (1999–2000), (chair, 2007– present); Executive Committee (2007 – present); West Division Presiding Judge, (2007– present).

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District & Municipal Court Judges Association, Long Range Planning Committee (1998–2000); Diversity Committee (1999).

Have you reviewed the General Rule Definition of the Practice of Law, and the Practice of Law Board's Work? – Do you have comments or ideas? Would you be in favor of the proposed Legal Technician Rule? This rule allows trained, tested and licensed non-lawyers to provide specifically defined legal services without supervision by a lawyer. Please explain.

I have reviewed GR 24. This rule defines what constitutes the "practice of law" and restricts that activity to licensed and insured attorneys. However, the rule permits certain legal related activities to be performed by trained non-lawyers. For example, family law facilitators can assist pro se litigants in family law cases fill out the necessary forms to start a dissolution or child support action. Domestic violence advocates can assist victims of domestic violence in obtaining protection orders. I am in favor of any procedure which will increase access to the court system for those who are unfamiliar with the process and unable to hire counsel so long as the providers have adequate training and supervision.

Have you been appointed as a guardian or Guardian Ad Litem? If "yes", please give the details?

Yes. In 1995, I was appointed guardian ad litem for a young woman (a minor) who was considering relinquishing her parental rights to her unborn child. She ultimately decided to keep the baby.

How have you promoted diversity within your staff?

I have made a conscious effort over the years to ensure that the clerk in my courtroom is a person of color. It is important that the court staff be representative of the people who come into court. I have also encouraged women and people of color to apply for management positions by meeting with them to discuss their career plans and by writing letters of reference for them.

What are the main messages of your campaign? What is your campaign plan? How many doors have you knocked on to date, pieces of mail planned, budgeting, staffing? What is the fundraising goal for your campaign? How much have you raised to date? Why will you win?

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The main message of my campaign is that I am the most qualified candidate. I have been a judge for over 13 years and have a solid reputation as a hard-working, fair and decisive jurist. I plan to introduce myself to the various democratic districts and seek the endorsement of labor unions. I do not know how much money my campaign has raised to date and until the filing period closes and it is clear that I have an opponent, my campaign will not be aggressively seeking contributions. I will win because I am the best qualified candidate for position 53 on the King County Superior Court.

I have read this questionnaire and understand and approve the content and all provided information.		
Printed Name	Mariane C. Spearman	Date
Signature		May 4, 2008